

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 AGRE-00

AID-05 EB-08 USIA-06 COME-00 TRSE-00 OIC-02 /071 W

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R 071810Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1339

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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FOR: (A) ROME - FAO AFFAIRS ADVISOR

(B) NEW DELHI - USDEL TO FAO MEETING

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, IN

SUBJECT: FAO MEETING ON HARD FIBERS

1. SUMMARY: HMG LIKELY TO SUPPORT MEASURES DESIGNED TO STABILIZE MARKET FOR HARD FIBERS: WOULD SUPPORT MONITORING, EXPORT QUOTAS IF FLEXIBLE, AND ESTABLISHMENT OF INDICATIVE PRICES IF PRICE LEVELS ACCEPTABLE. HMG WOULD LIKE TO AVOID GENERAL DISCUSSIONS OF RES. 93 (IV) OR THE UNCTAD INTEGRATED PROGRAM. END SUMMARY.

2. HMG POSITION OVERALL IS THAT FAO SHOULD "STOP SINGING THE 93 (IV) SONG AND TAKE A LOOK AT THE HARD FIBER  
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PROBLEM." ACCORDING TO DEPT. OF TRADE, IN GENERAL, AS TIES WITH MOST FIBER-PRODUCING COUNTRIES ARE FAIRLY CLOSE U.K. IS LIKELY TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING THAN SOME OTHER COUNTRIES. DEPARTMENT OF TRADE REPRESENTATIVE (WILSHIRE) WHO IS TO ATTEND SESSION IN NEW DELHI HAS GIVEN EMBASSY INFORMATION OF U.K. POSITIONS FOR FORTHCOMING MEETING, AS FOLLOWS:

3. ON ITEM 3 OF AGENDA, REVIEW OF CURRENT SITUATION:

A) FOR SISAL AND HENEQUIN: HMG WILL SUPPORT "ANY MEASURES WHICH WILL HELP STABILIZE THE MARKET"; WOULD SUPPORT MONITORING; WOULD NOT BE AGAINST EXPORT QUOTAS, THOUGH BELIEVE THEY SHOULD BE FLEXIBLE; ANY ADDED STEP WOULD BE, IF POSSIBLE TO ESTABLISH AN INDICATOR PRICE FOR TWINE AS WELL AS RAW FIBER.

B) FOR ABACA: HMG WOULD BE INTERESTED IN SOME MEASURES TO STABILIZE: AN INDICATIVE PRICE "WOULD PROBABLY HELP" BUT WOULD DEPEND ON PRICE LEVEL -- WOULD NOT WANT TO SEE A PRICE MUCH DIFFERENT FROM THE CURRENT PRICE.

4. ON ITEM 7, GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION:

A) FOR SISAL AND HENEQUIN: INDICATIVE PRICE NEEDS TO BE NO MORE THAN ABOUT \$500 PER TON (EAST AFRICAN V.G. GRADE, C.I.F. EUROPE); HMG SEES NO JUSTIFICATION FOR AN INCREASE; WOULD SUPPORT INDICATIVE PRICE FOR TWINE -- REASONABLE DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN TWINE AND RAW FIBER WOULD BE ABOUT \$200 PER TON.

B) SYNTHETIC TWINE: HMG ARE AGAINST INDICATIVE PRICE AND DO NOT FEEL ANY DISCUSSION OF SYNTHETICS IS APPROPRIATE AT FAO MEETING.

5. ON ITEM 8, MONITORING OF INFORMAL ARRANGEMENTS: HMG BELIEVES THAT PROBLEMS MIGHT BE OVERCOME IF THE FAO SECRETARIAT WERE EMPOWERED TO REDISTRIBUTE QUOTAS IN THE EVENT OF SHORTFALLS BUT THAT IT SHOULD NOT HAVE THE POWER TO REDUCE THE GLOBAL QUOTA.  
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6. ON ITEM 9, UNCTAD INTEGRATED PROGRAM: HMG WOULD LIKE THE DISCUSSION LIMITED TO THE ROLE THAT THE FAO COULD PLAY IN UNCTAD, BUT WOULD FAVOR A GREATER ROLE FOR THE FAO IN UNCTAD DELIBERATIONS, BELIEVING THAT THERE IS MUCH EXPERTISE WHICH WOULD BE USEFUL TO THE UNCTAD DISCUSSIONS.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
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